

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 2-14, 16-18, and 20 and cancel claims 1 and 21, without prejudice or disclaimer, as follows.

1. Cancelled

2. (Currently Amended) A method for enhancing fairness and performance in a multihop ad hoc network, the method comprising:

providing contention synchronization information regarding a transmission between a first set of nodes of the network, wherein the information is provided to a second set of nodes in a range of two hops from the first set of nodes participating at the transmission; and

setting, after successfully finishing the transmission, a waiting time for the first set of nodes, in which the first set of nodes backoff from accessing a transmission medium~~The method according to claim 1, wherein, in the providing step of the contention synchronization information provides;~~ the contention synchronization information is ~~provided by~~ generating a first black burst energy signal by each node in a third set of nodes of the network receiving a transmission request or a transmission clearance, the first black burst energy signal indicating a busy time of the transmission medium according to a mapping scheme.

3. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 2, wherein, in the providing ~~step~~of the contention synchronization information, the method accords to a ~~Distributed Coordination Function~~distributed coordination function.

4. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 3, wherein, in the providing ~~step~~of the contention synchronization information, the method accords to the ~~Distributed Coordination Function~~distributed coordination function defined by the 802.11 standard for ~~Wireless Local Area Networks~~wireless local area networks of the IEEE.

5. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 3, wherein, in the providing of the contention synchronization information~~step~~, the transmission request comprises a ~~Request-to-Send~~request-to-send packet, the transmission clearance comprises a first ~~Clear-to-Send~~clear-to-send packet, and the waiting time comprises a time for a ~~Request-to-Send~~request-to-send/clear-to-send~~Clear-to-Send~~handshaking and a total backoff time of a minimum contention window.

6. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 5, further comprising:
backing off by a first node using a random value uniformly chosen between 0 and CW_{min} before accessing a channel, when a first packet arrives to a ~~Medium Access Control Layer~~medium access control layer from a higher layer;

generating a second black burst energy signal according to the mapping scheme, when a second node receives a ~~Request-to-Send~~request-to-send or ~~Clear-to-Send~~clear-to-send not for itself, wherein the second black burst energy signal is not sent if the second node detects the channel is busy;

receiving the second black burst energy signal by a third node and attempting to access the channel by the third node for limited times before an end point of the time indicated by the second black burst energy signal, wherein these attempts are not added to retransmission times for the first packet;

starting a backoff timer at the end point of the time indicated by the second black burst energy signal by using a random value uniformly chosen between 0 and CW_{min} , while a first contention window for the third node is not reset, if the third node detects the channel is idle;

wherein only an earliest time point is used if more than one black burst energy signal is received; and

waiting for a time period after a successful transmission, before a sender node and a receiver node access the channel again, wherein length of the time period comprises the time for the ~~Request-to-Send~~request-to-send/~~Clear-to-Send~~clear-to-send-handshaking and the total backoff time of the minimum contention window.

7. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 6, wherein, in the receiving step of the second black burst energy signal, the end point of the time indicated by the second black burst energy signal is calculated according to:

$$T_i = T_{\text{curr}} + T_{\text{SIFS}} + T_{\text{CTS}} + T_{\text{TR}} + T_{\text{BB}} + T_{\text{DATA}} ,$$

wherein T_{curr} is a time when the second black burst energy signal is received and T_{BB} is a transmission time for the second black burst energy signal.

8. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 6, wherein, in the receiving step of the second black burst energy signal, the end point of the time indicated by the second black burst energy signal coincides with an end of a ~~DATA~~-data packet frame, if the second black burst energy signal was generated due to a second ~~Request-to-Send~~request-to-send packet, and wherein the end point of the time indicated by the second black burst energy signal is near a finish time of an ~~ACK~~-ack frame with a difference of turnaround time plus second black burst energy signal transmission time, if the second black burst energy signal was generated due to a second ~~Clear-to-Send~~clear-to-send packet.

9. (Currently Amended) A system for enhancing fairness and performance in a multihop ad hoc network, the system comprising:

providing means for providing contention synchronization information regarding a transmission between a first set of nodes of the network, and for providing the

information to a second set of nodes in a range of two hops from the first set of nodes participating at the transmission; and

setting means for setting a waiting time for the first set of nodes after a successful finish of the transmission, in which the first set of nodes backoff from accessing a transmission medium; and

node means for receiving a transmission request or a transmission clearance, and for generating a black burst energy signal by each such receipt, the black burst energy signal indicating a busy time of the transmission medium according to a mapping scheme for providing the contention synchronization information.

10. (Currently Amended) A system to enhance fairness and performance in a multihop ad hoc network, the system comprising:

a first processor configured to provide contention synchronization information regarding a transmission between a first set of nodes of the network, and configured to provide the information to a second set of nodes in a range of two hops from the first set of nodes participating at the transmission;

a second processor configured to set a waiting time for the first set of nodes after a successful finish of the transmission, in which the first set of nodes backoff from accessing a transmission medium;~~The system according to claim 9, further comprising~~
and

a first node ~~for receiving~~configured to receive a transmission request or a transmission clearance, and ~~for generating~~configured to generate a black burst energy signal by each such receipt, the black burst energy signal indicating a busy time of the transmission medium according to a mapping scheme,~~thus providing~~ to provide the contention synchronization information.

11. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 10, the system further comprising a ~~Wireless Local Area Network~~ wireless local area network.

12. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 11, the wireless local area network ~~Wireless Local Area Network~~ being in accordance with the 802.11 standard for wireless local area networks ~~Wireless Local Area Networks~~.

13. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 11, wherein, in the first node, the transmission request comprises a ~~Request-to-Send~~request-to-send packet, the transmission clearance comprises a ~~Clear-to-Send~~clear-to-send packet, and the waiting time comprises a time for a ~~Request-to-Send~~request-to-send/~~Clear-to-Send~~ clear-to-send-handshaking and a total backoff time of a minimum contention window.

14. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 13, further comprising:
a second node, a sender node, and a receiver node, wherein:

the sender node is configured to back off using a random value uniformly chosen between 0 and CW_{min} before accessing a channel, when a packet arrives to a ~~Medium Access Control Layer~~medium access control layer from a higher layer;

the second node is configured to generate a black burst energy signal according to the mapping scheme, when the second node receives a ~~Request-to-Send~~request-to-send or ~~Clear-to-Send~~clear-to-send not for itself, wherein the black burst energy signal is not sent if the second node detects the channel is busy;

the second node is configured to receive the black burst energy signal and attempt to access the channel for limited times before an end point of a time indicated by the black burst energy signal, wherein these attempts are not added to retransmission times for the packet;

the second node is configured to start a backoff timer at the end point of the time indicated by the black burst energy signal by using a random value uniformly chosen between 0 and CW_{min} , while a contention window for the second node is not reset, if the second node detects the channel is idle,

wherein only an earliest time point is used if more than one black burst energy signal is received; and

the sender node and the receiver node are configured to wait for a time period after a successful transmission, before the channel is accessed again, wherein length of the time period comprises the time for the ~~Request-to-Send~~request-to-send/

~~Clear-to-Send~~clear-to-send handshaking and the total backoff time of the minimum contention window.

15. (Original) The system according to claim 14, wherein, in the second node, the end point of the time indicated by the black burst energy signal is calculated by the first set of nodes according to:

$$T_i = T_{\text{curr}} + T_{\text{SIFS}} + T_{\text{CTS}} + T_{\text{TR}} + T_{\text{BB}} + T_{\text{DATA}},$$

wherein T_{curr} is a time when the black burst energy signal is received and T_{BB} is a transmission time for the black burst energy signal.

16. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 14, wherein, in the second node, the end point of the time indicated by the black burst energy signal coincides with an end of a ~~DATA~~data packet frame, if the black burst energy signal was generated by a third node due to a ~~Request-to-Send~~request-to-send packet, and wherein the end point of the time indicated by the black burst energy signal is near a finish time of an ~~ACK~~ack frame with a difference comprising turnaround time and black burst energy signal transmission time, if the black burst energy signal was generated by a fourth node due to a ~~Clear-to-Send~~clear-to-send packet.

17. (Currently Amended) A ~~Wireless Local Area Network~~wireless local area network node, wherein:

the node is configured to back off using a random value uniformly chosen between 0 and CW_{min} before accessing a channel, when a packet arrives to a Medium Access Control Layer from a higher layer;

the node is configured to generate a black burst energy signal according to a mapping scheme, when the node receives a ~~Request-to-Send~~request-to-send or ~~Clear-to-Send~~clear-to-send not for itself, wherein the black burst energy signal is not sent if the node detects the channel is busy;

the node is configured to receive the black burst energy signal and attempts to access the channel for limited times before an end point of a time indicated by the black burst energy signal, wherein these attempts are not added to retransmission times for the packet;

the node is configured to start a backoff timer at the end point of the time indicated by the black burst energy signal by using a random value uniformly chosen between 0 and CW_{min} , while a contention window for the node is not reset, if the node detects the channel is idle,

wherein only an earliest time point is used if more than one black burst energy signal is received; and

the node is configured to wait for a time period after a successful transmission, before the channel is accessed again, wherein length of the time period comprises a time for a ~~Request-to-Send~~request-to-send/~~Clear-to-Send~~clear-to-send-handshaking and a total backoff time of a minimum contention window.

18. (Currently Amended) The node of claim 17, wherein the node is in accordance with standard 802.11 for ~~Wireless Local Area Networks~~wireless local area networks of the IEEE.

19. (Original) The node according to claim 17, wherein, in the node, the end point of the time indicated by the black burst energy signal is calculated by the node according to:

$$T_i = T_{\text{curr}} + T_{\text{SIFS}} + T_{\text{CTS}} + T_{\text{TR}} + T_{\text{BB}} + T_{\text{DATA}} ,$$

wherein T_{curr} is a time when the black burst energy signal is received and T_{BB} is a transmission time for the black burst energy signal.

20. (Currently Amended) The node according to claim 17, wherein, in the node, the end point of the time indicated by the black burst energy signal coincides with an end of a ~~DATA~~data packet frame, if the black burst energy signal was generated by the node due to a ~~Request-to-Send~~request-to-send packet, and wherein the end point of the time indicated by the black burst energy signal is near a finish time of an ~~ACK~~ack frame with a difference comprising turnaround time and black burst energy signal transmission time, if the black burst energy signal was generated by the node due to a ~~Clear-to-Send~~clear-to-send packet.

21. Cancelled